



NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION

Vice Admiral SK Jha, NM
Chairman

Tel : +91-135-2747365, 2744873
Fax : +91-135-278373
Email : inho-navy@nic.in
ia-inho-navy@nic.in

National Hydrographic Office
107-A, Rajpur Road
Post Box No. 75
Uttarakhand
Dehradun - 248 001
INDIA

HO/IA/1116/NIOHC

07 Sep 12

Dear Members, Associate members and observers

1. I extend my greetings and wishes to all of you on taking over as Chairman of the NIOHC.

2. Way back in Jan 2002, we got together for the formation of North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC) and the first meeting was held at Dehradun from 31 Jan to 02 Feb 02 under the Chairmanship of India. It has been an interesting journey over the last decade and we have made considerable progress in an atmosphere of mutual co-operation and cordiality. We have individually and more importantly grown together to make tremendous progress towards developing expertise in the field of hydrography and nautical chart production. This displays that as an organisation we have never lost focus of our primary objectives which are encapsulated below:-

- (a) Promote mutual co-operation in the field of Hydrographic Survey, Nautical Cartography, Chart Datum, Latest Surveying and Cartographic Techniques and instrumentation for Marine Navigation.
- (b) Coordinate Hydrographic Resources in the area.
- (c) Conducting Joint Hydrographic Survey of poorly surveyed areas under regional efforts.
- (d) Mutual exchange of Hydrographic Products and Services for marine safety.
- (e) Assist in exchange of technical personnel and training to develop regional expertise.
- (f) Promote Electronic Navigational Services, including VTS, DGPS etc.

3. Considering the volume of maritime traffic in the region, complexities arising due to safety concerns and need to provide updated inputs to the mariners, there is a requirement for even better co-ordination especially in the field of data exchange and safety services.

4. As for INHO, it has been producing ENCs for its waters since 2004 and paper charts since 1940s. Our office has undergone recent changes which has greatly increased the production and improved the quality of our products. We can now proudly claim that a concerted effort has resulted in a self developed expertise in the fields of hydrography and cartography. As Chairman NIOHC and Chief Hydrographer of India, I take this opportunity to extend the facilities of INHO for production of paper charts and ENCs to all members. This, I believe, would be an appropriate contribution from my side towards capacity building. As

one of the founder members of NIOHC, I would like to highlight India's contribution in the region by sending survey ships for conduct of hydrographic surveys and humanitarian assistance during the 2004 tsunami that devastated South East Asia.

5. I express my gratitude to RAdm Nicholas Lambert for steering the regional issues during his tenure from 2010 to 2012. I must particularly mention about the capacity building and INT chart working group initiatives by him. The NICCWG was essentially formed to look into the complex issues of limits of various INT charts and ENCs in various bands to adhere to the WEND-WG guidelines. I look forward to deliberate upon these issues during the forthcoming meeting at Myanmar in Feb 2013. I would also like to request all participants to consider all aspects of providing adequate products and services to the maritime community by improving our coverage in the region.

6. I also take this opportunity to thank Thailand for accepting responsibilities of Vice Chairman and am grateful to Myanmar for hosting the 13th meeting of the NIOHC at Yangon from 19 to 22 Feb 13. I am looking forward to a fruitful interaction with all and my endeavor will be to work together for improvement of facilities in our region through enhanced capacity building and exchange of data.

7. I fervently hope that all of us pull together and carryout our obligations as a RHC in a spirit of bonhomie and mutual co-operation to further the cause of the maritime community by ensuring safety at sea.

with best regards,

yours Sincerely
Jr